



Ruthie Bernice Smith

August 7, 1937 - January 28, 2022

Ruthie Bernice Smith, 84, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, January 28, 2022, after a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's.

She was born August 7, 1937, in Manila, Arkansas, to Ellis Glen and Zerah Lee Harmon Mauldin.

She and Gaylon G. Smith were married August 27, 1955, in Bernie, Missouri. Together they worked Gaylon's way through college. They were partners in life for 66 years.

She attended Brady (one room) School through 8th grade. During high school Ruthie was baptized in a farm pond near Dexter, Missouri (church baptistery was under repair). She graduated from Bernie High School in 1955, and she later enrolled in college and painting classes, based on her interests.

Ruthie loved decorating her homes. She also made oil and acrylic decorative paintings that she sold at various craft fairs. She knitted beautiful scarves by the dozen which she gave away to family and friends. In Effingham, Illinois, she started and operated her own home decorator shop, Accents Unlimited.

Ruthie loved and was loved. In addition to family and local friends, she loved and kept friends forever, though some were scattered from California to Ohio and Michigan and surrounding states.

Survivors include her husband, Gaylon Smith of Cape Girardeau, and a son, Bart Lind Smith of Chicago, Illinois.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Sam Mauldin and Loyce Mauldin; and two sisters, Glenda Mays and Ann C. Messer.

Heartfelt thanks to Adrienne Armstrong and family for their long-term caring support. In

addition to many caring friends and neighbors, special mention goes to the professional and caring staff of VNA Hospice of Southeast, Missouri. Thank you, Rita, Sarah, JT, Brandy, and Mendy.

Ruthie was an active supporter of the Amen Center, P.O. Box 159, Delta, MO 63744.

There will be no services.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Ruthie was a very special and talented friend. Judy Greene*

Judy Greene - February 11 at 11:27 AM

MM

“ *Uncle Gaylon,*

I am so very sorry to hear about Aunt Ruthie. i wanted to offer our deepest condolences.

I will always remember helping my father build her cherry wood hutch at your house in Cape! I never had a bad meal under her roof!! Both my daughters Ragan and Carly and my mother Chala were very fond of Aunt Ruthie. I know the last years have not been easy for you . I thank you for taking such good care of my Aunt Ruthie!

Love you !

Matthew Mauldin nephew

Matthew Mauldin - February 04 at 01:22 PM

VF

“ *We miss you Ruthie. You have left behind so many good memories... I loved watching you and Gaylon taking walks hand in hand, sharing your beautiful flowers if the deer didn't get to them first, lol, especially our date night playing dominos, so fun :) Van and I are so grateful for all the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners you, Gaylon and Bart opened up your home to invite us in and was always welcomed with open arms. We will miss you Ruthie but so thankful you're not suffering and in the arms of Jesus enjoying heaven... maybe we will all be neighbors in heaven, how cool would that be:) We love you Ruthie, Gaylon and Bart, praying the peace of Jesus over your household. Van & Beth*

Van and Beth Furgeson - February 03 at 10:49 AM

JG

“ *Ruthie was such a beautiful person. My friend. She loved her flowers and shared them with me, along with her baking, as she was a perfectionist. Gaylon was such a wonderful care giver to Ruthie; making it possible for her to stay at home during her illness. My condolences to Gaylon and Bart. Love to you my dear Ruthie. Judy.*

Judy Bullock Graetz - February 03 at 08:35 AM

PC

“ Ruthie was very special to me. We were best friends n high school, n our husbands, Graham n Dawsey were best friends too. So much fun, laughter n tears together. Love to the family. Loved her so much. 💕💕💕

Patsy Crutchfield - February 02 at 01:25 PM